(c) whether we would include further pursuance of this syndrome in our forthcoming space projects as India is now being a recognizable 'Space Exploration' entity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware that more than 32 planets have been discovered outside the solar system.

(b) Though the number of extra solar planets discovered is more than 32, most of them do not have the temperature and environment conducive for possible existence of any form of life.

(c) Currently, ISRO has technological difficulty to pursue this activity from space platform. However, ground-based observations for the search of extra solar planets are being planned at Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad.

Launching of Oceansat-2

3188. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched Oceansat-2, an ISRO built 960 kg satellite with six nation's satellite on September 23, 2009 which is expected to bring down the annual fuel bill of each mechanized fishing boat across the country; and

(b) if so, the details and salient features of the Oceansat-2 launch?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched Oceansat-2 - a 960 kg satellite built by ISRO along with six other small satellites from Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey, on September 23, 2009. The Oceansat-2 will facilitate identification of Potential Fishing Zones and enable fishermen to reduce the search time, thus bringing down their annual fuel bill.

(b) The Oceansat-2 was launched on September 23, 2009, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, by the 16th flight of the ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). The performance of the launch vehicle was normal and the satellite was successfully injected into its intended polar sun-synchronous orbit of 720 km altitude. Following the injection of the Oceansat-2, the six other small satellites of other countries were also injected smoothly into their intended orbits.

Advance technology for Chandrayaans

3189. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether future "Chandrayaans" would be designed on advanced technological developments taking place all around the globe;

(b) whether a low cost planetary mission has been conducted by the International Academy of Astronautics in Goa; and

(c) whether basic features of this low cost planetary Mission would be reflected in such projects in future or would these be designed on entirely different technology to avoid snags in "Chandrayaan-I"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The next Moon mission Chandrayaan-II will have an Orbiter, a Lander and Rovers, which uses advanced technologies and will be in tune with technologies internationally.

(b) Yes, Sir. An International Conference of International Academy of Astronautics on 'low Cost Planetary Missions' has been conducted at Goa from August 31, 2009, to September 4, 2009.

(c) In this Conference, some concepts to carry out low cost planetary missions have been discussed. Some of these ideas are futuristic and some can be applied to the immediate missions.

Planet 'X heading towards earth

3190. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planet 'X' is heading towards Earth at a speed of 20,00,000 miles a year and may come close to earth or collide with it anytime after 2010 to cause destruction like earthquake and Tsunami;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this has any link with calendar of Maya Civilization; and

(d) what are the remedial measures available with the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir. There is no factual basis for this.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Tourism after 26/11 terrorist attack on Mumbai

3191. DR. N. JANARDHANA REDDY:Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Tourism industry is still finding it difficult to present the country as safe destination for foreign tourists even after one year of the 26/11 terror attack;

(b) if so, whether several foreign countries are still guiding their citizens not to visit India in view of unsafe destination;